AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein the call is received in the network as a circuit-switched call having a packet-based destination.

3. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein the call is received in the network as a packet-based call having a circuit-switched destination.

4. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein the call is received in the network as a packet-based call having a packet based destination.

5. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein the query includes at least one of the called party number and a number associated with the calling party.

6. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein query is launched to the database to also determine whether the calling party should receive an announcement, and if so then

providing an announcement to the calling party.

7. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein query is launched to the database to also determine whether digits should be collected from the calling party, and if so then

collecting digits from the calling party.

8. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein query is launched to the database to also determine whether the calling party should receive an announcement and digits should be collected from the calling party, and if so, then

providing an announcement to the calling party; and

collecting digits from the calling party.

9. (currently amended) A technique for handling subscriber calls in a communications network using a routing plan prescribed by the subscriber independent of the manner in which the calls originate and terminate, comprising the steps of:

receiving in the network a call from a calling party dialed to a called party,

launching a query to database containing routing plans to obtain a called party routing number for the called party in accordance with a subscriber routing plan that is independent of call origination and termination;

mapping the called party routing number to a physical port in the network when the called party routing number corresponds to a circuit-switched call destination; or to a IP address when the called party routing number corresponds to a packet-based call destination;

routing the call to the call destination in accordance with the mapping;

~~The method according to claim 1 further including the steps of:~~

determining if the routing the call in accordance with said mapping yields a busy trigger, and if so, then

establishing an alternate call routing number destination by querying said database; and

mapping the alternate called party routing number to a physical port in the network when the alternate called party routing number corresponds to a circuit-switched call destination; or to an IP address when the called party's routing number corresponds to a packet-based call destination; and

routing the call to the call destination in accordance with the mapping.

10. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein the routing plans in the database exists to support circuit based destinations and is augmented to handle packet-based destinations.

11. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 9 wherein the database and the routing plans contained therein are entirely new.

12-26 (canceled)

27. (original) A technique for handling subscriber calls in a communications network using a routing plan prescribed by the subscriber independent of the manner in which the calls originate and terminate, comprising the steps of:

receiving in the network a call from a calling party dialed to a called party,

launching a query to database containing routing plans to obtain a called party routing number for the called party in accordance with a subscriber routing plan that is independent of call origination and termination;

mapping the called party routing number to a physical port in the network when the called party routing number corresponds to a circuit-switched call destination; or to a IP address with the called party routing number corresponds to a packet-based call destination;

routing the call to the call destination in accordance with the mapping;

determining if the routing the call in accordance with said mapping yields a busy trigger, and if so, then

establishing an alternate call routing number destination by querying said database; and

mapping the alternate called party routing number to a physical port in the network when the alternate called party routing number corresponds to a circuit-switched call destination; or to a IP address when the called party's routing number corresponds to a packet-based call destination; and

routing the call to the call destination in accordance with the mapping of the alternate called party number.

28. (original) The method according to claim 27 wherein the call is received in the network as a circuit-switched call having a packet-based destination.

29. (original) The method according to claim 27 wherein the call is received in the network as an packet-based call having a circuit-switched destination.

30. (original) The method according to claim 27 wherein the call is received in the network as an packet-based call having a packet based destination.

31. (original) The method according to claim 27 wherein the query includes at least one of the called party number and a number associated with the calling party.

32. (original) The method according to claim 27 wherein query is launched to the database to also determine whether the calling party should receive an announcement, and if so then

providing an announcement to the calling party.

33. (original) The method according to claim 27 wherein query is launched to the database to also determine whether digits should be collected from the calling party, and if so then

collecting digits from the calling party.

34. (original) The method according to claim 27 wherein query is launched to the database to also determine whether the calling party should receive an announcement and digits should be collected from the calling party, and if so, then

providing an announcement to the calling party; and

collecting digits from the calling party.